



Dr. Larry Wolk Receives 2006 Harold E. Williamson Award

Children in the metro area are healthier because of our 2006 Harold E. Williamson Award recipient, Larry Wolk, M.D.

Although Dr. Wolk works full-time as the chief medical officer and division head for Advantus/HMS Healthcare, his day doesn't end there. His significant volunteer efforts for various health-related charities and causes demonstrate his true commitment to kids in Colorado.

Arguably, his most significant accomplishment is his work with Rocky Mountain Youth. When Dr. Wolk was a resident in pediatrics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, he recognized a gap in the state's health care system that left many children without access to care. After his residency, Dr. Wolk established his own practice and based it on the belief that children should not be punished for their parent's financial situation. He welcomed all kids into his practice regardless of their insurance status or their family's ability to pay. He and his staff also developed a "house call" service, providing on-site medical care at organizations serving children.

Because a lack of funds limited Dr. Wolk and his staff's outreach, in 1996 he incorporated Rocky Mountain Youth as a nonprofit organization. This allowed him to attract private donors to ensure that his young patients received the health care they needed.

Dr. Wolk provides medical direction, financial oversight, and physician services for Rocky Mountain Youth. In recent years, the organization expanded into one of the largest safety net providers of health care services for underserved and at-risk youth. Dr. Wolk attracted a dedicated staff of health care providers that work for reduced salaries because they share his dedication to the underserved. He is also responsible for recruiting professionals to raise funds, provide medical services, and serve on Rocky Mountain Youth's Board of Directors. Each year, Rocky Mountain Youth serves more than 20,000 children at 30 full or part-time clinics throughout Colorado.

According to Joe Craig, M.D., Rocky Mountain Youth's medical director, Dr. Wolk leads by example.

"Dr. Wolk's work as a volunteer has made an immeasurable impact on our community's children," said Craig. "His leadership and obvious commitment to serving others encourages those around him to dedicate their own time and experience to serving others."

COPIC Medical Foundation established the Harold E. Williamson Award in 2001. The award is presented each year to honor an outstanding Colorado physician for his/her volunteer medical service and contributions to the community. The award provides a \$10,000 donation from COPIC Medical Foundation to the non-profit organization of the honoree's choice. The award was established in memory of Harold E. "Hal" Williamson, one of the first non-physician board members of The COPIC Trust. Hal's encouragement and active participation led to the establishment of COPIC Medical Foundation.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wolk and all those nominated for this award. We thank everyone who took the time to honor the outstanding physicians in their communities and the physicians whose tremendous contributions benefit us all.

Dr. Wolk was nominated for the award by Joe Craig, M.D. of Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics.

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